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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,419	08/01/2003	James M. Tour	11321-P022WUDI	4375
47744	7590	11/28/2007	EXAMINER	
WINSTEAD PC			HENDRICKSON, STUART L	
WINSTEAD PC			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
P. O. BOX 50784			1793	
DALLAS, TX 75201				

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11/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,419	TOUR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stuart Hendrickson	1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 36-68,88-93 and 131 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 36-68,88-93 and 131 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

The election of SWNTs is noted. All claims are under consideration. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 36-68, 88-93, 131 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruoff et al. 5547748.

Ruoff teaches nanomaterials functionalized by diazonium groups; see especially col. 8 lines 50-60. Although Ruoff does not discuss nanotubes, they are suggested by the teaching of curved surfaces having pentagons in the sheet. Thus, treating a SWNT is an obvious expedient to form a catalyst or electron emitter. The location of functionalization is deemed possessed or an obvious expedient, even though the reaction is preferentially at the ends where the pentagons are; the claim only requires minimal reaction at one site.

Claims 36-47, 49-68, 88-93, 131 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kelly article.

Kelly teaches swnts functionalized at the sidewall; butylated nanotubes are mentioned on pg. 445. Even though the process steps are not the same, no difference is seen in the product; the product does not require diazonium groups. Fig. 3a shows a large number of groups (claim 60).

Applicant's arguments filed 9/13/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The claims do not exclude end-derivatization, and no difference is seen in the product. The arguments to the process are not persuasive as to product claims, especially as the product need not have diazo groups. *Applicants are reminded of their duty of disclosure.*

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Hendrickson at telephone number (571) 272-1351.


Stuart Hendrickson
examiner Art Unit 1754